

**FACT SHEET**

**CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE**

**9TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE**

**August 20, 21, 22, 2004**

**What's Going On?**

On August 20, 21, 22, 2004 the Connecticut State Police will conduct its ninth annual statewide food drive at four (4) Shaw's Supermarkets locations. The locations are:

- Wallingford
- Manchester
- Bridgeport
- Waterbury

On Friday, the drive will run from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

In addition to the food drive on Sunday, State Police will stage public safety demonstrations using resources like the K-9 Unit, a Bomb Squad Truck and State Police Specialty Units.

**Why Is the CSP Involved In This Type of Activity?**

Organized in 1903, the mission of the CSP is the protection of life and property. While protection efforts usually take the form of law enforcement measures, community service is another form of public protection, especially when that service can and does help save lives.

### **How Serious Is the Problem?**

More than 300,000 Connecticut residents go hungry each day or are at risk of hunger and one-third of them are children. The state's 600 food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters serve primarily female-headed households with children. Some of these families spend as little as 89¢ per meal per person to feed themselves. Many of these households rely on the school lunch program to provide nutritious meals for their children.

### **Why Conduct the Drive During the Summer Months?**

With the close of the school year in June, the state's food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters play an even more vital role in the lives of these families. In the absence of a school lunch program, they become the sole source of a nutritious meal for these 100,000 plus children who face hunger each day.

By the end of summer, the shelves at the food banks, which supply Connecticut's food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters, are very low on supplies. It is a long way until the end of November and the Thanksgiving season when the next major food drives are conducted statewide.

### **How Can the Public Help?**

By donating non-perishable food items during the food drive. Some of the best foods to donate are: boxed, canned and/or packaged foods, including dry or powdered milk. Other choices might include: packaged juices, cans of tuna fish, jars of peanut butter, boxes of crackers or pasta; cans of soup (especially the chunk variety), rice, cereal, cooking oil, baby food or formula and personal hygiene products.

### What If I'm Unable To Attend the Food Drive, But Still Want To Contribute?

While the State Police cannot accept monetary contributions, you can mail your contribution to the food bank serving your area.

#### CONNECTICUT FOOD BANK

P.O. Box 8686

New Haven, Ct 06531

\* Serving - Fairfield, New Haven, Litchfield, Middlesex County, New London and Windham Counties.

#### FOODSHARE

P.O. Box 2019

Hartford, CT 06144-2019

\* Serving - Hartford and Tolland Counties.

### How Much Food Has Been Collected During These Drives?

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Connecticut, during the first year of the drive, the state's food banks realized close to a tractor-trailer of food. That's more than 19,000 pounds of nutritious, first quality food which was distributed to over 600 food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters statewide. Last year, Foodshare collected over 15, 000 pounds of food, while the rest of the state realized 8,538 pounds for a total of 23,538 pounds. In the eight years since its inception, the State Police Food Drive has helped to collect more than 86,000 pounds of food for the hungry.

### Have You Set A Goal For This Year?

Our goal this year, as it was last year, is to fill a need to close the gap that exists between the end of the summer and the November ~ December holiday season.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Public Information Office  
(860) 685-8230

**FOR RELEASE:**

Upon Receipt  
August 16, 2004

## **Connecticut State Police Detail Plans for the 9th Annual Summertime Food Drive**

**Middletown, CT:** At this time of year, many parents cannot wait until their children return to school. The reasons may differ for that depending upon family circumstances. For the parents of some 100,000 children, returning the "golden rule" days means their children will receive a nutritious meal through the school lunch program. The summertime for these families means more frequent trips to soup kitchens and food pantries; and by the end of the summer, the food supplies at the state's food bank warehouses are at a critical low. Since 1996, Colonel Edward Lynch, working with representatives from the state's food banks, identified this need and got the support of this agency, which serves and protects the people of Connecticut, to help solve the problem. "While people generally think of us only in terms of a law enforcement agency, providing service to the community, especially when that service can help save lives, is another form of public protection," Colonel Edward Lynch said. Hoping to fill in the gap at a time when most state residents are not even aware there is a need is the goal of the State Police Department's 9th annual statewide community service project.

This year's drive will be conducted on August 20th from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., August 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and August 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held in cooperation with Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. at the following locations around the state: **Wallingford, Bridgeport, Manchester and Waterbury.**

"Working with Shaw's, we selected these four (4) store locations as they represent continued support for success in our annual food drive," noted Colonel Edward J. Lynch.